

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-13 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 130770

R 190940 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1744

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6079

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS CB MARR

SUBJECT: KHMER PRESS REACTION TO COMMENTS OF GVN FOREIGN MINISTER
ON ARVN INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA

1. THE ARMY NEWSPAPER RUOM KAMLANG HAS TAKEN ISSUE WITH
A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO GVN FOREIGN MINISTER TRAN VAN
LAM THAT (QUOTE) THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM RESERVE THEIR RIGHT OF PURSUIT AND INTERVENTION
IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DO NOT
WITHDRAW FROM THESE TWO COUNTRIES (END QUOTE). FOLLOWING
ARE EXTRACTS FROM RUOM KAMLANG' S EDITORIAL:

2. (QUOTE) IF THERE IS NEED FOR THE INTERVENTION OR
ASSISTANCE OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, THIS INTERVENTION
CAN ONLY BE MADE UPON THE REQUEST ON THE PART OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC TO THESE COUNTRIES OR
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PRIOR ACCORDS. THE RIGHT OF INTER-
VENTION CANNOT BE MADE WITHOUT RESPECT TO KHMER INDE-
PENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

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3. (QUOTE) IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG DO NOT RESPECT THE ACCORDS TO WHICH THEY HAVE SUBSCRIBED AND CONTINUE TO COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC ON INTERVENTION BY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES TO HELP US WILL PROVE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. BUT WE WANT THIS INTERVENTION TO BE ONLY ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND NOT SOUTH VIETNAM (END QUOTE).

4. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH RUOM KAMLANG IS THE ARMY NEWSPAPER, IT IS RATHER LOOSELY CONTROLLED AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP. IN THE PAST THE GKR HAS NOT HESITATED TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ARVN TROOPS WHEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION NECESSITATED SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION. NEVERTHELESS, AS THE EDITORIAL INDICATES, INTERVENTION OF ARVN TROOPS ON KHMER SOIL IS A HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR ALL KHMER, INCLUDING THE MILITARY, AND WOULD MOST LIKELY BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE ONLY AS A LAST RESORT.
SWANK

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM06079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730624/aaaajhnf.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980217
Subject: KHMER PRESS REACTION TO COMMENTS OF GVN FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARVN INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CB, n/a
To: BANGKOK
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VIENTIANE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005